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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Third Extraordinary Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 June 1960, at 4.25 p.m.

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PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. URQUIA	(El Salvador)
later,	Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT	(Uruguay)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ILLUECA	Panama
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. BERNARDO	Argentina
	Mr. TAMAYO	Bolivia
	Mr. SILOS	Brazil
	Mr. SCHWEITZER	Chile
	Mr. ARAUJO)	Colombia
	Mrs. LOPEZ)	
	Mr. ORTIZ	Costa Rica
	Mr. BESBE	Cuba
	Mr. de MARCHENA	Dominican Republic
	Mr. CORREA	Ecuador
	Mr. VEGA GOMEZ	El Salvador
	Mr. MULLET	France
	Mr. HERRARTE	Guatemala
	Mr. AUGUSTE	Haiti
	Mr. MILLA BERMUDEZ	Honduras
	Mr. CUEVAS CANCINO	Mexico
	Mr. POLDERMAN	Netherlands
	Mr. MENA-SOLORZANO	Nicaragua
	Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS	Paraguay
	Mr. MACKEHENIE	Peru
	Miss WARBURTON	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. PARKER	United States of America
	Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT	Uruguay
	Mr. SILVA-SUCRE	Venezuela
	Mr. BYFIELD	West Indies
<u>Observers from Member States:</u>		
	Mr. CHIKARAISHI	Japan
	Mr. MACHOWSKI	Poland
<u>Observer from a non-member State:</u>		
	Mr. WIECK	Federal Rep. of Germany

PRESENT (continued):Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. REYMOND	International Labour Organisation
Mr. SANTA CRUZ	Food and Agriculture Organization
Mr. AKRAWI	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Mr. SANDELIN	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Mr. G. WILLIAMS	International Monetary Fund
Mr. HOPWITZ	World Health Organization
Mr. BROTZMAN	World Meteorological Organization

Representative of another United Nations body:

Mr. STEDMAN	Technical Assistance Board
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Representatives of inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. MENAPACE	Inter-American Development Bank
Mrs. TROPIN	Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration
Mr. PIERCE	Organization of American States

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

<u>Category A:</u> Mrs. LUSARDI	International Chamber of Commerce
Mr. SCHLAFF	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
The Rev. Mr. ZANARTU	International Federation of Christian Trade Unions

<u>Secretariat:</u> Mr. PREBISCH	Executive Secretary of ECLA
Mr. VEGECA	Secretary of the Committee

CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION CREATED IN CHILE AS A RESULT OF THE DISASTER OF 21 to 23 MAY 1960 - POSSIBLE MEANS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (E/CN.12/AC.46/2 and 3; E/CN.12/AC.46/L.1 and L.1/Rev.1) (continued)

Mr. ARAUJO (Colombia) said that he had listened with deep emotion to the description given by the representatives of Chile of the disaster which had befallen their country and he had seen the film on the devastated areas. The Government, the Congress and the principal public and private institutions of Colombia which were linked to Chile by traditional bonds of friendship, had at once expressed their sympathy with the earthquake victims. Medical supplies, food and clothing had been sent by air as early as 26 May, and a Colombian ship, which was to collect emergency supplies from other Latin American countries, was on its way to Chile. The international community ought now to give the Chilean people every assistance possible in rebuilding their country and restoring its economy.

Mr. MENAPACE (Inter-American Development Bank) said that the Inter-American Development Bank had a very special interest in the catastrophe which had just befallen one of its members. The moving address of the representative of the Chilean Development Corporation had revealed the courage and realism with which the Chilean Government had met that terrible ordeal. It was the duty of the international community to help Chile to undertake the long and difficult task of reconstruction which was now added to the economic difficulties it had faced since the end of the Second World War. The Inter-American Development Bank could provide technical assistance in the preparation and presentation of requests for the financing of specific projects, and would pay very careful attention to any recommendations which might be made at the present session of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. AKRAWI (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the catastrophic earthquakes which had laid waste the southern part of Chile had resulted in the destruction of many schools, the displacement of a large number of children of school age and the destruction of scientific laboratories as well as other facilities in the higher institutes of learning in the region. It had also made it more necessary than ever to institute adult education programmes so as to help the people rebuild their country from its ruins. UNESCO had therefore immediately sent the Co-ordinator of its

(Mr. Akrawi, UNESCO)

Latin American Major Project to Chile in order to study the possibilities for UNESCO action in the matters of educational and scientific reconstruction. Following upon that study, a programme of assistance, a summary of which appeared in document E/CN.12/AC.46/2, had been submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO. With regard to short-term action, UNESCO was ready to provide the University of Concepción and other institutions in the disaster area with equipment to the value of \$35,000. In addition, UNESCO was offering coupons against payment in escudos in an amount to be determined in consultation with the Controller of the United Nations, and it had cancelled a debt to it incurred by the University of Concepción. With regard to the long-term assistance programme, UNESCO would co-operate in it to the greatest extent its resources allowed; its assistance would depend in large measure on the recommendations the Committee might make at the present session.

Mr. de MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that the question before the Committee gave the Latin American countries the opportunity of demonstrating their essential unity. The appalling disaster which had overtaken Chile had called forth demonstrations of solidarity from all the sister republics on the continent. The people and Government of the Dominican Republic for their part had immediately taken steps to come to the aid of the victims of the disaster. The delegation of the Dominican Republic would support any recommendations for the provision of international assistance to Chile and it had noted with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Secretary-General with a view to facilitating the implementation, by every means possible, of the emergency programme presented by the Chilean Government. It would therefore support the proposals contained in the Ecuadorian draft resolution.

Mr. AUGUSTE (Haiti) said that it was impossible to contemplate without horror the consequences of the terrible catastrophe which had befallen Chile some few weeks earlier. The earthquake had devastated the richest part of the country at the very moment when Chile was beginning to reap the fruits of the magnificent economic development programme it had put into operation. It was reassuring, however, to see the courage with which the Chilean Government and people had tackled the immense task of reconstructing their country, and to note the solidarity which all the Latin American countries and the international organizations had shown on that occasion. The President of the Republic of Haiti

(Mr. Auguste, Haiti)

had immediately sent a message of sympathy and friendship to the Chilean Government and people, and various Haitian bodies such as the Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce had taken action to assist the victims. It was in that spirit of international solidarity that the Haitian delegation would consider the draft resolution submitted by Ecuador.

Mr. TAMAYO (Bolivia) said that, in face of the magnitude of the disaster which had come upon Chile, it was reassuring to find that all members of the Committee were anxious for a programme of international co-operation to be carried out to help the Chilean Government and people reconstruct their country. He believed that the Ecuadorian draft resolution, with the changes to be made in it, would be a real contribution to helping Chile perform that gigantic task. The Bolivian delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution.

Mr. MACHOWSKI (Poland) recalled that some two months earlier the Economic and Social Council had unanimously adopted a resolution on measures to help the victims of the Agadir earthquake. The catastrophe which had befallen Chile gave the international community another opportunity to show its solidarity with one of its members. Poland, for its part, had immediately sent assistance, and was ready to co-operate to the greatest extent possible in any measures taken at the international level to help Chile.

Mr. POLDERMAN (Netherlands) recalled that part of his country - Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles - lay in the western hemisphere. His country had for that reason been particularly touched by the sufferings of the Chilean people and by the determination with which the people and their Government had begun to rebuild upon the ruins of their country. The Netherlands, which would never forget the assistance it had received from all parts of the world during the floods in 1953, firmly believed that it was the duty of the international community to give the courageous Chilean people all the help they needed. The Ecuadorian draft resolution was designed to make such assistance possible. The Netherlands delegation had had some doubts concerning certain provisions in the original text of the draft and would be happy to study the revised text which was to be submitted.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay), referring to the enormous damage caused by the earthquakes and seaquakes in Chile, said that as a result of the disaster communications had been cut, 300,000 persons had lost their homes, land and livestock, and, what was even more serious, the geological structure of the region had been fundamentally changed. The life of the population had been disrupted. Concepción, a cultural centre which ranked among the foremost towns of Latin America, was today only a heap of ruins. Valdivia, formerly an inland town on the banks of the river Calle-Calle, was now on the sea coast on an inlet somewhat resembling a Norwegian fjord. Many countries had suffered disasters of the same nature in recent years and Uruguay, which had not been spared in that respect, was fully appreciative of the value of international solidarity. At the first news of the Chilean disaster the representatives of Latin American countries had therefore met, at the request of the representative of Uruguay, to render assistance to Chile and had suggested a meeting of the ECLA Committee of the Whole at United Nations Headquarters. All the peoples of the world turned to the United Nations at such a time, and the Organization was in duty bound to assist Chile, and to adopt the revised draft resolution submitted by the Ecuadorian delegation. The duty to provide international assistance was the greater in view of the admirable courage which the Government and people of Chile had demonstrated in their firm resolve to repair the damage as soon as possible. His country would support the revised draft resolution, subject to the constitutional provisions in force in his country.

Mr. SILOS (Brazil) said that the problems raised by the disaster in Chile were of such magnitude that they were not a regional concern but an international collective responsibility which would constitute a test for the United Nations. While there was no doubt that Chile had used every available means to cope with the disaster and that many countries, including Brazil, had contributed to mitigate the immediate suffering of the Chilean population, the heaviest task remained to be accomplished. As the Chilean Government had stated in document E/CN.12/AC.46/2, "no country at the same stage of development as Chile could by itself cope with so great a calamity". His delegation was of the opinion that the United Nations should not only help Chile to settle the problems deriving from the catastrophe, but also enable Chile to carry out its emergency programme without slowing down its economic development. His delegation would therefore support the revised draft resolution submitted by Ecuador.

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Mr. MONTERO de VARGAS (Paraguay) recalled that as soon as news of the earthquakes in Chile had been received his country had done its utmost to demonstrate its sympathy. The many expressions of international solidarity which Chile had received were inspired by knowledge of what that country had achieved in the past. It was a vigorous country which had always striven to carry out programmes of economic and social development, and its courage had in no way been daunted by the disaster. His own delegation had participated in the discussion of the draft resolution and had suggested certain changes. The text now before the Committee commanded its full support.

Mr. WIECK (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed the sympathy of the Government and people of the Federal German Republic to the people of Chile, who were still suffering from the terrible aftermath of the earthquakes of 21 and 22 May. His Government considered that it was under a duty to assist Chile in its efforts to meet immediate needs and undertake the reconstruction of the devastated area. It had placed 10 million marks at the disposal of Chile and was now negotiating with the Chilean Government with a view to sending experts. It had also taken part in the negotiations concerning the establishment of a fund to finance Chilean reconstruction mentioned at the previous meeting by the United Kingdom representative. His delegation hoped that it would be possible through multilateral and bilateral international aid to supply Chile with the necessary resources to ensure its future economic development as well as to meet immediate needs.

Mr. ORTIZ (Costa Rica) stated that the Government and people of Costa Rica had done their utmost to help Chile in the present grave emergency. At the international level his delegation would support any resolution to provide assistance to Chile in its work of reconstruction.

Mr. PIERCE (Organization of American States) hoped that the Committee of the Whole and later the Economic and Social Council would give favourable consideration to any measure to furnish special assistance to Chile. The draft resolution submitted by Ecuador had taken note of the two concrete steps initiated by the OAS. In a resolution dated 31 May 1960 the Council of the OAS had requested all member States to make a contribution equal to 10 per cent of their quotas to the Pan-American Union for the establishment of a special fund for assistance to Chile. That step, taken on the initiative of the delegation of Uruguay to the Council of the OAS, was expected to result in a sum

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of approximately \$7,000,000. Moreover the Inter-American Economic and Social Council had called upon financing institutions and in particular the Inter-American Development Bank to give urgent consideration to the grave financial problems confronting the Government and people of Chile.

In view of the vast amount of damage and the limited resources available he would insist on the necessity of co-ordinating the efforts of all agencies involved in assistance to Chile so that the best possible use of funds available might be made. The Director of the Division of Regional Development of the Pan-American Union had been sent to Chile at the beginning of June to work out a realistic programme of action for OAS assistance. He had been able to obtain information which would permit the OAS to make specific proposals to the Government of Chile. Those proposals would relate to measures for the large-scale production of housing components for the construction of dwellings and assistance in obtaining the economic data required for the planning of reconstruction and development in the devastated areas.

The OAS welcomed the co-operation of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as that of the United States within the framework of its bilateral programme, and the many efforts carried out by other Governments and private groups. It would endeavour to co-ordinate its work with that undertaken by other agencies.

Mr. SCHLAFF (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that he wished to express his organization's sincere sympathy with the victims of the recent disasters in Chile. The ICFTU International Solidarity Fund had donated a sum of \$5,000 and its Inter-American Regional Organization had provided an additional \$13,000 for relief to survivors. The Solidarity Fund had also given \$5,000 to the International Red Cross to assist the various countries affected by the earthquakes and seaquakes. The ICFTU had also sent a member of its Executive Board to Chile to study the situation and to suggest possible measures.

As was mentioned in document E/CN.12/AC.46/2 the Government of Chile had requested the International Telecommunication Union to send an expert to assist in restoring the normal working of the telecommunication services, which had been largely destroyed, and also to furnish advice concerning the modernization of the network of services in the country as a whole. In that connexion attention should be drawn to the attitude of the members of the National Telephone Workers' Federation who had been on strike at the time of the disaster and had immediately

(Mr. Schlaff, ICFTU)

resumed work in order to play their part in the task of reconstruction. The Government of Chile had immediately released the trade union leaders who had been in prison. The incident showed that the free trade unions were prepared to participate in the rebuilding of a world in which all men would be free and free from want.

The Reverend Mr. ZANARTU (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions) wished to convey an expression of his organization's sympathy to the Chilean people and, in particular, to the workers and peasants, who had been hardest hit by the disaster. The IFCTU considered that a country which had been so sorely tried should be able to count on receiving assistance from the international community, but at the same time it hoped that that assistance would be used as effectively as possible. If that was to be done, the Chilean trade unions should certainly be consulted, especially as they had shown great civic spirit by calling off strikes, which had been wholly justified, and by urging their members to make redoubled efforts in the interests of the national economy.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador), introducing the revised draft resolution submitted by his delegation (E/CN.12/AC.46/L.1/Rev.1), drew attention to the extensive changes in operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, which had been made after consultations with the Executive Secretary of ECLA and with officials of the Technical Assistance Board. Since the financial arrangements originally suggested would raise technical difficulties, his delegation was proposing a different solution. It seemed that the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board would be able to find the \$380,000 needed for 1960, but the estimated expenditures of \$1.5 million for 1961 could not be met without a voluntary increase in Government contributions to the Expanded Programme. His delegation therefore proposed that a total amount of \$2.2 million be allocated for the emergency programme, that the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board take all possible steps to find the \$380,000 required to carry out the programme in 1960, and that the Economic and Social Council be requested to recommend to member States that they increase their voluntary contributions to the Expanded Programme in 1961.

Another substantive change had been made in the original text, in connexion with paragraph 3. Although the proposal to establish a committee composed

(Mr. Correa, Ecuador)

of three persons of international repute had had to be abandoned, the advisability of considering the possibilities of promoting a concerted plan of international action designed to supplement the efforts made by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the inter-governmental organizations had been recognized; it was also understood that the Secretary-General might still establish the committee proposed in the original draft.

Lastly, he pointed out that minor changes had been made in the form of the preamble and of operative paragraph 1, and that operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 had not been changed.

Mr. STEDMAN (Technical Assistance Board), after conveying a message of sympathy to the Chilean Government and people on behalf of the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board, said that the Technical Assistance Board was anxious to do everything in its power to assist that sorely tried country. Commenting on paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the revised draft resolution, he stressed that he was speaking as a member of the Secretariat, since the Technical Assistance Board was subject to the instructions of the Technical Assistance Committee and of the Economic and Social Council. With regard to paragraph 5, he believed, on the basis of what had already been said by representatives of the participating organizations and subject to the issuance of appropriate directives to TAB from the Council and from TAC, that it should be possible to meet the bulk of the requirements of the Chilean emergency programme for 1960 using all the resources which were now available to the organizations under their regular and expanded programmes, supplemented by grants under the contingency authority of the Executive Chairman. The degree to which it would be possible to meet the requirements of the emergency programme for 1961 and 1962 appeared to depend for financing entirely on the responses made by Governments to the appeal contained in paragraph 6. The Board understood paragraph 4 of the revised draft as intending to prepare the way for the normal technical assistance programme review and approval machinery to bring its whole resources to bear on Chile's emergency requirements.

The CHAIRMAN said that since he wished to speak as the representative of El Salvador, he would ask the first Vice-Chairman to take the Chair.

Mr. Rodriguez Fabregat (Uruguay) took the Chair.

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Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) recalled that his country, like the other members of the Committee, had done everything in its power to aid the Chilean people, both directly and through the Organization of American States. His delegation had been instructed to join in the endeavour to associate the Committee of the Whole of ECLA in the Chilean assistance work. His delegation had not been entirely satisfied with the original draft resolution but considered that the revised text which had been drafted after the Ecuadorian representative's discussions with certain officials of the Technical Assistance Board and with various delegations was more satisfactory. It was clear from the statement by the representative of the Technical Assistance Board that the financial arrangements in the revised draft resolution should not create any difficulty. He was pleased to note that the proposal to establish a committee composed of three persons of international repute, in operative paragraph 3, had been abandoned. In its revised form the Ecuadorian draft resolution was satisfactory to his delegation and he would vote for it.

Mr. Urquia (El Salvador) resumed the Chair.

Mr. MACKEHENIE (Peru) said that Peru could not but associate itself with the expressions of determination to aid Chile. In that connexion he pointed out that it was in the reconstruction period following the disaster that the need for the assistance of friendly countries and international organizations would be the greatest. The technical report so ably presented by the Director of CORFO indicated that Chile must have assistance from the international community in order to carry through the work of reconstruction and that in view of the existing political, economic and psychological climate in Chile there was every chance that the assistance given it would be used with the greatest possible effectiveness. If assistance was not granted to the Chilean people in its hour of need, Chile's efforts to stabilize its economy would be ruined and the United Nations would fail in one of its fundamental obligations to promote the economic development of all countries. His delegation would vote for the revised draft resolution (E/CN.12/AC.46/L.1/Rev.1) and hoped that it would receive the unanimous approval of the Committee.

Mr. CORREA (Ecuador) proposed that the meeting be adjourned and that the vote on the draft resolution before the Committee be deferred to the following morning.

After a discussion in which Mr. RODRIGUEZ FARRIGAT (Uruguay), Mr. PARKER (United States of America), Mr. ORTIZ (Costa Rica), Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) and Mr. SCHWEITZER (Chile) took part, the CHAIRMAN put the Ecuadorian proposal to the vote.

The proposal was adopted by 12 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

